

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 625

Voter Information Cards

SPONSOR(S): Gibson

TIED BILLS:

IDEN./SIM. BILLS: SB 192

	REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR
1)	Governmental Affairs Policy Committee		McDonald	Williamson
2)	Military & Local Affairs Policy Committee			
3)	Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council			
4)				
5)				

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill requires the voter information card prescribed in s. 97.071, F.S., to include the address of the polling place. If an elector's address of legal residence or polling place address changes, the supervisor of elections must send the elector a new voter information card. For any elector registered to vote on July 1, 2010, the supervisor of elections has until 30 days before the next supervisor-administered election in which the elector is eligible to vote to include the polling place address on the elector's voter information card.

Currently, every supervisor of elections must furnish a voter information card to every registered voter in the supervisor's county. The card must include date of registration; full name of elector; party affiliation; date of birth; legal residence address; precinct number; supervisor's name and contact information; and other information deemed necessary by the supervisor. Replacement cards are provided free of charge. New cards are issued automatically when a voter's name, address, or party affiliation changes. Sixty-one counties include the polling place address on the voter information card.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

There will be a fiscal impact on counties that do not include the polling place address on the voter information card. See "Fiscal Comments."

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Currently, every supervisor of elections must furnish a voter information card to every registered voter in the supervisor's county. The card must include the following information:

- date of registration;
- full name of elector;
- party affiliation;
- date of birth;
- legal residence address;
- precinct number;
- supervisor's name and contact information; and,
- other information deemed necessary by the supervisor.¹

Replacement cards are provided free of charge upon verification of the voter's registration, if the voter provides a signed written request for a replacement card.² The voter also may use the uniform statewide voter registration application to request a replacement card.³ New cards are issued automatically when a voter's name, address, or party affiliation changes.⁴

According to the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, 61 counties include the polling place address on the voter information card. Counties that do not include the polling place address are *Glades*, *Jefferson*, *Madison*, *Orange*, *Taylor*, and *Volusia*.⁵

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill requires the voter information card prescribed in s. 97.071, F.S., to include the address of the polling place. If an elector's address of legal residence or polling place address changes, the supervisor of elections must send the elector a new voter information card. For any elector registered to vote on July 1, 2010, the supervisor of elections has until 30 days before the next supervisor-

¹ s. 97.071(1), F.S.

² s. 97.071(2), F.S.

³ s. 97.052(1), F.S.

⁴ s. 97.071(3), F.S. See also s. 97.1031, F.S.

⁵ Information received from the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, February 23, 2010.

administered election in which the elector is eligible to vote to include the polling place address on the elector's voter information card.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 97.01, F.S., to add polling place address to the information required on the voter information card required to be given to all registered voters residing in a Supervisor of Elections county and to issue the voter a new card when the polling place address changes.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2010.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

See "Fiscal Comments."

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

The fiscal impact has not been determined for the six counties that will be required to issue new voter information cards reflecting the polling place address. While it varies from county to county, the average county cost to print and mail one card is approximately 52 cents. For electors who are registered to vote on July 1, 2010, the bill would allow the supervisor until 30 days before the next supervisor-administered election in which an elector is eligible to vote to comply with the polling place address requirement.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

The bill is exempt from the mandate requirements because it is amending the elections laws.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

Not applicable.